

**From:** Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]  
**Sent:** 8/13/2018 12:41:49 PM  
**To:** Duffy, Rick [Duffy.Rick@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Energy: FERC Orders Dominion to Stop Work on Atlantic Coast Pipeline

# M ENERGY

By Jacqueline Toth

## Top Stories

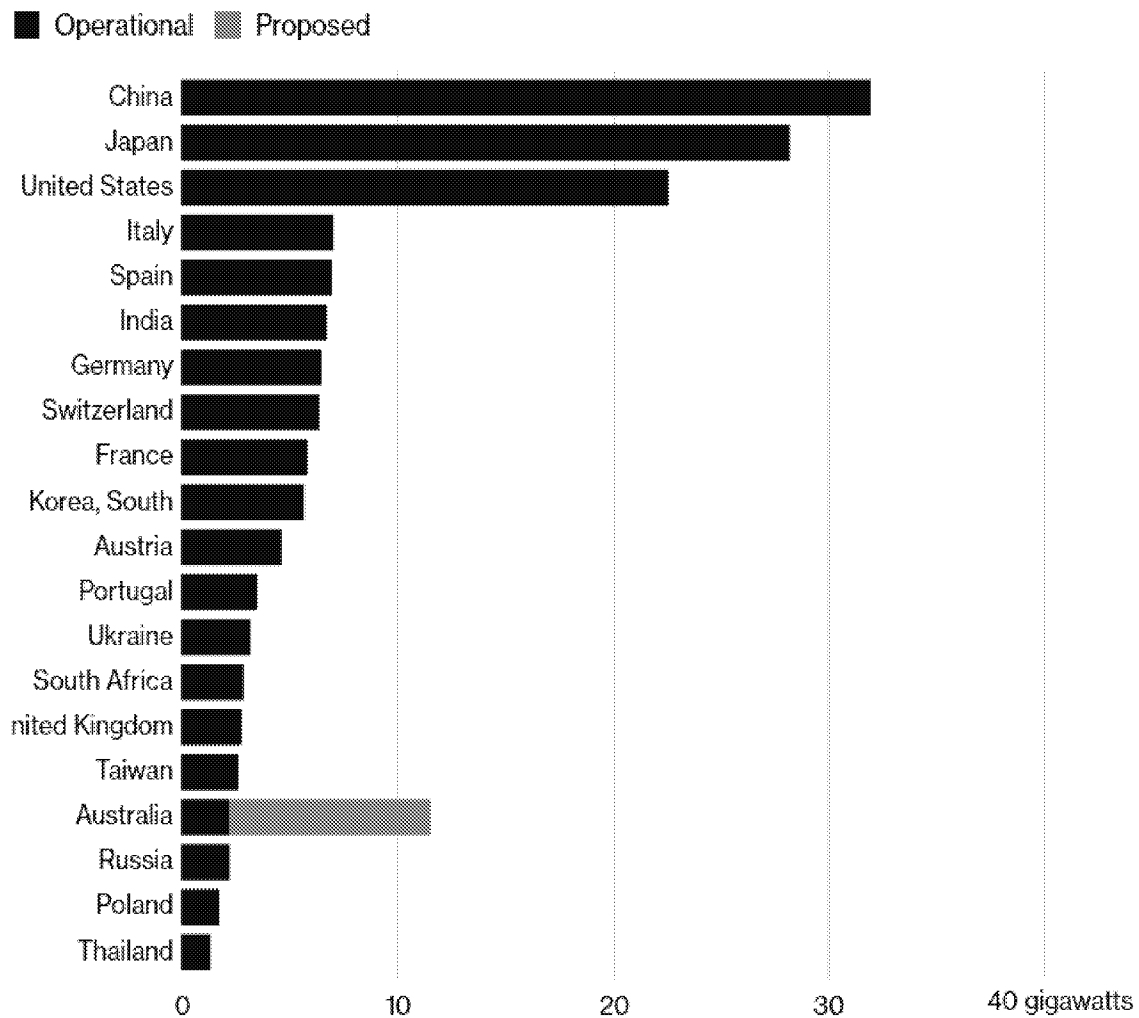
- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission sent a letter to Dominion Energy Inc. ordering it to pause construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, following the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' suspension on Aug. 6 of two Interior Department permits for the project. In a 2-1 vote, FERC also voted not to grant a rehearing for its permit of the pipeline, whose construction is intended to carry natural gas from West Virginia through central Virginia. ([The Washington Post](#))
- Monsanto Co. was ordered by a jury to pay \$289 million in damages to a former school groundskeeper who alleged that its weed-killers made from the popular herbicide glyphosate caused his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In the first case of its kind to go to trial, the jury found that Monsanto, which is owned by Bayer AG, did not adequately warn the plaintiff and others of the cancer risks of the products, but Monsanto, which contends that its products are safe, said it will appeal the verdict. ([Reuters](#))
- The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff requested in a motion that South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. pay what could reach over \$1 billion in sanctions for not providing the entirety of a confidential 2015 audit detailing construction issues and continued delays with the now-abandoned V.C. Summer nuclear expansion project. The state Public Service Commission had ordered the utility to turn over the report by July 6. ([Charlotte Business Journal](#))

# Chart Review

## How to Transform a Wilderness Into a Giant Battery Bloomberg

### Water for Batteries

Countries with the most pumped hydro capacity



Bloomberg New Energy Finance

Source: DOE Global Energy Storage Database

# Events Calendar (All Times Local)

## MONDAY

2018 Tribal Lands & Environment Forum 8 a.m.

## TUESDAY

2018 Tribal Lands & Environment Forum 8 a.m.

Environmental Protection Agency PFAS Community Engagement Event 10 a.m.

Platts Price Assessment Methodology Explained 11:30 a.m.

## WEDNESDAY

11:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m.

American Coalition for Ethanol 2018 Conference 10:30 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources legislative hearing on monument, memorial, national park and other bills 4 p.m.

## THURSDAY

American Coalition for Ethanol 2018 Conference 8 a.m.

2018 Tribal Lands & Environment Forum 8:30 a.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works hearing on the Water Quality Certification Improvement Act 10 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources confirmation hearing on Energy Department nominees 10 a.m.

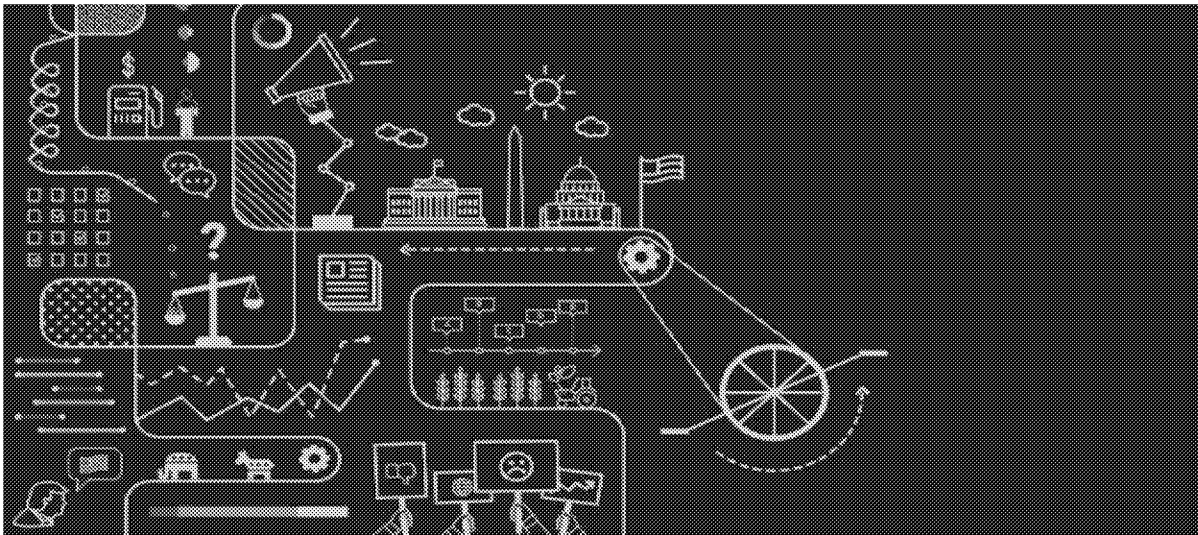
**FRIDAY**

American Coalition for Ethanol 2018 Conference

8  
a.m.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration briefing on Alaskan climate conditions

4  
p.m.



## CSR & Political Activism in the Trump Era

How to avoid a firestorm, improve your brand's reputation.

## General

## Monsanto ordered to pay \$289 million in world's first Roundup cancer trial

**Tina Bellon, Reuters**

A California jury on Friday found Monsanto liable in a lawsuit filed by a man who alleged the company's glyphosate-based weed-killers, including

Roundup, caused his cancer and ordered the company to pay \$289 million in damages.

Devin Nunes: Providing more energy to Europe is the 'only way' to take on Russia

**Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner**

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, R-Calif., said Sunday that reducing Western Europe's reliance on Russian gas is the "only way" to take on Moscow in a broader conflict between the two powers on the world stage, and in cyberspace.

Democratic National Committee Backtracks On Its Ban Of Fossil Fuel Donations

**Alexander C. Kaufman, HuffPost**

The Democratic National Committee passed a resolution Friday afternoon that activists say effectively reverses a ban on fossil fuel company donations.

Zinke takes forestry fight to fire-ravaged California

**Miranda Green, The Hill**

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is seizing on California's wildfires to promote a policy long-supported by Republicans - that fires could be stopped if forests were logged.

Zinke's deputy: Civil, self-confident and under the radar

**Michael Doyle and Jeremy P. Jacobs, E&E News**

In short, Zinke wears the cowboy hat. Bernhardt does not.

Toxics from manufacturing turn up in public water systems

**Ellen Knickmeyer, The Associated Press**

Lauren Woehler wonders if her 16-month-old daughter has been harmed by tap water contaminated with toxic industrial compounds used in products like nonstick cookware, carpets and fast-food wrappers. Henry Betz, at 76, rattles around his house alone at night, thinking about the water his family unknowingly drank for years that was tainted by the same contaminants, and the pancreatic cancers that killed wife Betty Jean and two others in his household.

Oil Steady as Emerging-Market Fears Escalate Amid Turkey Crisis

**Ellen Milligan, Bloomberg**

Oil held steady even as Turkey's economic strife sparked an emerging-market sell-off, fueling fears of broader market turmoil.

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## Oil and Natural Gas

Saudi cuts oil output as OPEC points to 2019 surplus  
**Alex Lawler, Reuters**

OPEC on Monday forecast lower demand for its crude next year as rivals pump more and said top oil exporter Saudi Arabia, eager to avoid a return of oversupply, had cut production.

Frackers Burn Cash to Sustain U.S. Oil Boom  
**Rebecca Elliott and Bradley Olson, The Wall Street Journal**

American oil companies-primed to reap the benefits of rising prices after years of wringing more from wells for less-are seeing profits erode in the face of rising costs.

A Gas Pipeline to Italy? Five Star Backers Sense a Betrayal  
**Jason Horowitz, The New York Times**

When Alfredo Fasiello voted for the Five Star Movement this year, he believed the party would join his battle against a 545-mile, \$5.2 billion pipeline to bring gas from the Caspian Sea to Italy, landing near the small beach club his family owns in San Foca, on the heel of Italy.

Caspian Nations Move to Settle Dispute on Oil and Gas Reserves  
**Ann M. Simmons and Benoit Faucon, The Wall Street Journal**

Leaders of five Caspian Sea nations signed an agreement that aims to settle a longstanding dispute over ownership of oil and gas reserves on the landlocked body of water.

Shell hails bounceback towards deepwater drilling

**Anjali Raval, Financial Times**  
Royal Dutch Shell is doubling down on drilling for oil far beneath the oceans, as the energy group eyes a cash bonanza from traditional deepwater projects despite a growing focus on new US shale investments.

ConocoPhillips prepares for more Houston job cuts  
**Jordan Blum, Houston Chronicle**

Houston oil producer ConocoPhillips said it's preparing for "modest" job cuts in Houston and throughout the United States during September to help keep costs down.

### Energy executives lament Trump tariffs as costs rise on pipeline projects

**Collin Eaton, Reuters**

U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal to double tariffs on steel and aluminum from Turkey could push up costs even further for domestic oil and gas pipeline projects, as energy executives said they were already struggling from earlier tariff rises.

### Is the anti-pipeline playbook starting to work?

**Ellen M. Gilmer, E&E News**

Although they've notched some important wins over the years, the scoreboard shows developers and federal regulators overwhelmingly in the lead. This summer, though, things have started to change.

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## **Utilities and Infrastructure**

### As Powelson steps down, greens call for FERC seat to stay vacant

**Gavin Bade, Utility Dive**

Powelson's departure Friday will allow Democrats to deadlock commission votes 2-2 until the Senate confirms a new nominee from the White House to fill the seat. Democrats have voted against many of the pipeline projects the groups oppose, and the organizations want FERC to change how it considers climate change and other landowner impacts in project approvals.

### How Hacked Water Heaters Could Trigger Mass Blackouts

**Andy Greenberg, Wired**

When the cybersecurity industry warns about the nightmare of hackers causing blackouts, the scenario they describe typically entails an elite team of hackers breaking into the inner sanctum of a power utility to start flipping switches. But one group of researchers has imagined how an entire power grid could be taken down by hacking a less centralized and protected class of targets: home air conditioners and water heaters.

Pepco is building a substation next to a school. Residents want to know: Why here?

**Perry Stein, The Washington Post**

Nestled between a public school and affordable housing for seniors and families lies a bustling community garden. Schoolchildren learn how to grow food. Seniors pick up bundles of fresh veggies on the cheap. And some of the District's most acclaimed chefs purchase herbs and edible flowers grown here.

Hacking The Electric Grid Is Damned Hard

**Maggie Koerth-Baker, FiveThirtyEight**

It's all very urgent - a high-risk crisis that must be solved immediately. But, surprisingly, some electrical system experts are thinking about it in a different way.

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## **Renewables**

The conflicting reports about Saudi interest in Tesla's buyout

**Zachary Basu, Axios**

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund is reportedly in talks to increase its stake in Tesla to become a part of Elon Musk's move to take his company private at \$72 billion, Bloomberg reports, though sources told Reuters yesterday that the sovereign wealth fund had no interest in financing the proposal.

Lawsuits accuse Tesla's Musk of fraud over tweets, going-private proposal

**Jonathan Stempel, Reuters**

Tesla Inc and Chief Executive Elon Musk were sued twice on Friday by investors who said they fraudulently engineered a scheme to squeeze short-sellers, including through Musk's proposal to take the electric car company private.

Battery Technology May Be Next Stranded Assets in Green Revolution

**Anna Hirtenstein, Bloomberg**



Some of the latest battery technologies may become obsolete before reaching the market because of the breakneck pace of advances in the industry.

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## Coal

### Coal mine supervisors facing fraud charges plead not guilty **The Associated Press**

Eight former supervisors and safety officers at a Kentucky coal company have pleaded not guilty in federal court to charges they rigged dust monitoring in underground mines.

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## Nuclear

### Uranium Market Shows Signs of Life **Paul Garvey, The Wall Street Journal**

Several investment funds have launched this year to wager on a turnaround in the radioactive material used in nuclear reactors. Since the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan, uranium had been the worst-performing commodity as countries re-evaluated their reliance on nuclear power.

### Incident involving transfer of waste canister at San Onofre nuclear plant prompts additional training measures **Rob Nikolewski, Los Angeles Times**

A contractor responsible for transferring canisters of spent nuclear fuel at the site of the shuttered San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station has been cited for "performance errors" and was directed to "take corrective actions, including additional training" for its workers, Southern California Edison officials said.

### US nuclear units shut as low power prices threaten more retirements **William Freebairn, Platts**

As utilities threaten to shut nuclear units, a patchwork of state subsidies has emerged, and DOE and the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are mulling separate actions to prevent reactors from

closing. The result is a confusing amalgam of measures that could benefit nuclear units in some locations but not others.

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## Climate

### Facing \$17 Billion in Fire Damages, a CEO Blames Climate Change

**Mark Chediak, Bloomberg**

Authorities don't yet know the cause of some of the fires, but the region's giant utility, PG&E Corp., see a culprit at work - climate change.

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## Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

### Forget Trump - coal seeks new life in high tech

**Amy Harder, Axios**

Coal's share of U.S. electricity mix has plummeted from nearly 50% to 30% in just the past decade, fueled by growth in cheap, cleaner-burning natural gas and tougher environmental regulations.

### The Phony Numbers Behind California's Solar Mandate

**Steven Sexton, The Wall Street Journal**

California's energy regulators effectively cooked the books to justify their recent command that all homes built in the Golden State after 2020 be equipped with solar panels. Far from a boon to homeowners, the costs to builders and home buyers will likely far exceed the benefits to the state.

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## Research Reports

### Climate Shocks, Cyclones, and Economic Growth: Bridging the Micro-Macro Gap

**Laura Bakkensen and Lint Barrage, National Bureau of Economic Research**

Empirical analyses of the impacts of climatic shocks on growth, while critical for policy, have found seemingly disparate results and are seldom incorporated into macroeconomic climate economy models. This paper seeks to bridge this micro-macro gap through the case of tropical cyclones.



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